

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PORT O 00376 141244Z

41

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00

L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-08 /049 W

----- 095522

R 141150Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8795

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

S E C R E T PORT OF SPAIN 0376

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, TD

SUBJECT: CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 011313 (NOTAL)

1. DURING A DISCUSSION WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS FEB 13 IN HIS OFFICE I ASKED FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF CUBAN MOTIVES IN LAUNCHING A 12,000 MAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE INTO ANGOLA.

2. WILLIAMS FELT THAT CASTRO HAD LAUNCHED ANGOLAN INVOLVEMENT FOR HIS OWN MOTIVES BUT SAID HE COULD ONLY SPECULATE WHAT THOSE MOTIVES REALLY WERE. HE STATED THAT THE ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF CASTRO TO LAUNCH SUCH A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY INTERVENTION FAR FROM CUBAN SHORES WAS AN IMPORTANT NEW POLITICAL FACT IN THE CARIBBEAN. (NOTE: IN A RECENT PUBLIC SPEECH WILLIAMS REFERRED OBLIQUELY TO CUBA AND NOTED IN THE VERNACULAR: "WHAT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF SOMEBODY DECIDES SOMEDAY, WELL MAN, WE TRIED LIBERATING PLACES TOO FAR AWAY, LETS US GO AND LIBERATE TOBAGO." -- SEE POS A-11)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PORT O 00376 141244Z

3. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN SAID THAT HE FELT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF THE CUBAN INTERVENTION WOULD EVENTUALLY BE FELT WITHIN CUBA ITSELF, AND THAT IT COULD ULTIMATELY LEAD TO THE DOWNFALL OF CASTRO. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC CUBAN REPERCUSSIONS AS THE SCALE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AND CASUALTIES BECAME MORE WIDELY KNOWN AT HOME. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CASTRO'S PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT "THE BLOOD OF AFRICA FLOWS IN OUR VEINS" MIGHT COME BACK TO HAUNT CASTRO, PARTICULARLY IF RUMORS ARE BORNE OUT THAT CASTRO HAD ARTIFICIALLY MANEUVERED BLACKER SKINNED CUBANS INTO NUMERICAL PREPONDERANCE IN THE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

4. WILLIAMS ASKED IF WE COULD KEEP HIM INFORMED OF ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAINED INDICATING THE RACIAL MAKEUP (PERCENTAGES) OF THE CUBAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, AND ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ADVERSE REACTION DEVELOPING IN CUBA.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT WILLIAMS ACTUALLY KNOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING WITHIN CUBA ANY BETTER THAN WE DO, IT IS INTERESTING THAT HIS UNQUESTIONING ASSUMPTION IS THAT THIS CUBAN ACTION WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT CASTRO'S INTERNAL POSITION, AND PERHAPS SERIOUSLY SO. WILLIAMS IS ALSO CLEARLY UNEASY WITH THE NEWLY DEMONSTRATED CUBAN PENCHANT FOR INTERNATION MISCHIEF.
RICH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PERSONAL OPINION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO00376
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0788
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760247/aaaabpid.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 11313
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, TD, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006